(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) No proposal to set up a medical college under the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Act, 1993 has been received from the Government of Tripura.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Indore-Ujjain Road

3456. SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to bring the Indore-Ujjain-Ratlam-Banswara-Durgapur-Ahmedabad road route under new National Highway Scheme; and

(b) if so, the time by which this work is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Accredition to Journalists

3457. SHRIMATI CHHABILA ARVIND NETAM : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether journalists are accredited by his Ministry separately;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of journalists allowed for press coverage of all the three armed forces during the last one year; and

(d) the norms prescribed for taking the journalists to various places for the press coverage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (d) Accreditations given by Press Information Bureau, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting are considered valid by the Directorate of Public Relations (DPR), Ministry of Defence in Delhi. The Ministry of Defence do not issue any separate accreditation to correspondents/media persons. The branch offices of DPR accord recognition to accreditation given by the respective State Governments. Generally, open invitation to all media organisations are issued for coverage of the functions of the Ministry of Defence, subject to constraints of transportation, accommodation and space. As the Defence PROs are spread over 24 regional offices besides the headquarters in New Delhi, no centralised compilation of journalists taken on press parties is maintained.

[English]

Construction of Dam

3458. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that 'construct your Check dam' scheme has recently been launched by the Gujarat Government in Junagadh district;

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme;

(c) the details of the irrigation capacity of the scheme;

(d) whether the Union Government propose to provide assistance to encourage similar schemes in other States also; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Farmers, Non Government Organisations and donors can take part in this scheme as their own programme. Any farmer or village can select site for a Check Dam near-by in consultation with Water Resources Department officials, Government of Gujarat. Beneficiaries will deposit 10% of the estimated cost with any N.G.O. registered for the purpose by the Water Resources Department. The construction will start by N.G.O. utilising this 10% contribution. On spending this 10% amount by N.G.O., the Government of Gujarat will contribute the remaining 90% amount in three instalments as per the progress of the work. The completed Check Dam will be maintained by N.G.O. and farmers and used by the beneficiary farmers. Government of Gujarat will allocate 5% of the estimated cost for maintenance to NGO.Check Dams costing upto Rs. 15 lakh can be considered under this scheme. Any NGO or donor; who contributes 25% or more of estimated cost as contribution; can give his name to this Check Dam.

(c) Each Check Dam may benefit about 10 hectares of land in the vicinity.

(d) At present, there is no such proposal.

(e) Does not arise.

Casualties at Safdarjung Hospital

3459. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether accident victims brought to AIIMS Casualty Department are being refused admission and

are transferred/shifted in their ambulance to Safdarjung Hospital casualty;

(b) if so, the number of such cases including serious, emergency cases shifted to Safdarjung Hospital during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the number of cases of critically ill patients who died in the shifting process, during the above period;

(d) whether Casualty department of Safdarjung Hospital is provided with specialists and required equipment to save the critically ill patients by timely treatment;

(e) whether vital equipment like CT Scan, Ultra-sound etc., remain out of order in the Emergency Department and patients are advised to go to private institutions in critical stage, for their tests; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) All accident victims brought to AIIMS casualty are resuscitated at AIIMS Casualty and in the event of non-availability of beds are referred to other hospitals including the Safdarjang Hospital.

(b) The Institute maintains the copies of the record of medical advice in respect of the patients including those referred to Safdarjang Hospital or other Government Hospitals. But these figures are not complied for statistical purpose. On an average 8-15 cases per day are referred from the Institute to Safdarjang Hospitals due to non-availability of beds in the Institute.

(c) The deaths during the transit of the patients from the Institute to other hospitals are not reported and thus records are not available. Such cases are rare because no critically ill/serious patient is referred to any other hospital before they are stabilised.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. On occasional instances when equipments are temporarily out of order, the patients are referred to other Government Hospitals.

[Translation]

Land-Route to Myanmar

3460. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government are making efforts with Myanmar Government for providing facility of visa to Indian citizens for travelling by road to Myanmar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard keeping in view the close proximity of Indians with the people of Indian origin in Myanmar?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (d) The question of permitting travel by road into Myanmar had been taken up with authorities of that country. The Government of Myanmar have conveyed that at present overland movement by road is not feasible.

[English]

Privatisation of Education System

3461. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to Privatise Education System thereby allowing the private Entrepreneurs to open Universities, Engineering Colleges, Medical Colleges and other Technical Institutions;

(b) if so, the details of the policy of the Government and the time scheduled for the implementation of such policy;

(c) if not, whether the Government have any proposal to open University, Engineering Colleges and Medical Colleges in any part of the country to solve the disparities;

(d) whether the Government have received any proposal from the State of Orissa for opening a new University/Engineering/Medical Colleges; and

(e) if so, the steps, the Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) Privatisation connotes transfer of control, fully or partially, in respect of institutions or enterprises existing under the Government to private parties. Government has no intention to resort to privatisation. Establishment of Universities in the country require either a specific or general enabling legislation. A Bill entitled "The Private Universities (Establishment and Regulation) Bill, 1995" is pending consideration in the Rajya Sabha.

(d) and (e) A proposal to establish a Central University in Orissa was received. Central Advisory Board on Education had recommended that in view of severe constraints of financial resources, Government should exercise restraint in setting up more Central Universities.